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Government
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careers

**for university graduates
with the government of canada**

Medical Sciences

Dietetics

Social Work



Introduction

Careers in the Government of Canada for graduates in medical sciences, dietetics, and social work are both rewarding and interesting. Some of these are mainly for men, some mainly for women but in all cases, the laboratories, hospitals, clinics and other facilities of government departments offer excellent equipment and subject matter for treatment, inspection, consultation, research and development projects.

Medical Officers

The Department of Veterans Affairs employs many Medical Officers, both specialists and general practitioners, in its numerous treatment hospitals across Canada. They provide excellent opportunities for young doctors to gain knowledge and experience.

The work of the Department of National Health and Welfare requires almost every type of medical specialty. Those who show an interest in and aptitude for the work have a good assurance of promotion. For the young doctor, the service offers a rewarding career with the opportunity to gain experience in various fields of medicine and to advance to positions of senior responsibility when he is experienced and capable.

There are advisory and consultant groups working in such fields as: aviation medicine, child and maternal health, epidemiology, medical rehabilitation, mental health, nutrition, and environmental health. There are other groups concerned with the administrative aspects and the general development of public health including both hospital services and disease prevention. Much time is spent in collaboration with provincial health department officials and with the officials of international health agencies.

The department is also active in promoting research, especially in recently developed fields such as radiation protection, air pollution and virology.

There is a complete range of opportunities for both the clinician and public health administrator of many centres in Canada and abroad in sections of the department responsible for patient care and community services. The department has responsibilities for examining and treating Indians and Eskimos, immigrants and other travellers, pilots and other specialized workers and civil servants. The department also provides a

complete health service in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Whenever possible, appointment to the more senior Medical Officer posts are from among Medical Officers already on staff. Junior officers are encouraged to prepare for advancement by accepting a variety of assignments during the early part of their career with the department. Each year a number of Medical Officers are granted educational leave to follow specialized courses.

The basic requirement is graduation from a medical school of recognized standing and a licence to practise medicine in one of the provinces of Canada.

Dental Officers

For the young dentist who enjoys travelling, work with the Department of National Health and Welfare offers an excellent opportunity to provide service and to gain valuable experience.

The Department of Veterans Affairs also employs Dental Officers at various centres across Canada.

The Department of National Health and Welfare looks after the Indians and Eskimos of Canada, with particular emphasis placed upon preventive, restorative,

and general public health dentistry for children. Dentists are based at hospitals or offices of Indian and Northern Health Services, but more than half of their time is spent travelling throughout the areas inhabited by the Indians and Eskimos to provide dental services and visit schools.

For these jobs, the basic requirement is graduation from a dental school of recognized standing and a license to practise dentistry in a province of Canada. For the positions in National Health and Welfare special interest or experience in Public Health Dentistry, School Health Services or Dentistry for children is desirable.

Nurses

Registered nurses have an opportunity of gaining valuable experience in all phases of hospital and convalescent health. For some positions, a certificate in Supervision and Teaching or Nursing Service Administration, is also required.

They work with the Department of Veterans Affairs in its active treatment hospitals, convalescent hospitals and veterans' care institutions. These institutions are usually located in or near large centres of population and are excellently equipped and maintained.

The Department of National Health and Welfare employs registered nurses in its Medical Services Directorate with Quarantine, Immigration Medical and Sick Mariners Service, Indian and Northern Health Service and with the Civil Service Health Division. In the Quarantine, Immigration Medical and Sick Mariners Service nurses are concerned with the health of immigrants and other visitors to Canada. Nurses with

the Indian and Northern Health Services will spend part of their time travelling in the North. There are also challenging supervisory positions in this service for those who possess the required qualifications. Public Health Nurses are employed in the Civil Service Health Division which maintains a number of health units in Ottawa to conserve and improve the health of civil servants. They give first-aid and minor medical and surgical attention to civil servants and give guidance and counsel to employees on matters of health.

Graduation from a school of nursing of recognized standing and registration as a nurse in a province of Canada are the normal requirements for this work. Occasionally, in the absence of registration in Canada, the Commission will employ graduate nurses who meet the requirements for registration. Nurses in the Civil Service Health Division and Public Health Nursing Supervisors in Indian and Northern Health Services must have a certificate in Public Health. For some positions, a certificate in Supervision and Teaching or Nursing Service Administration, is also required.

Specialty allowances of \$5, \$10, and \$25 a month will be paid in cases where post-graduate training or education will be utilized in the performance of the duties of the position. Extra duty pay of \$15 a month will also be paid in cases where the regular duties of the position include definite supervisory or charge responsibilities. Uniforms and laundering of same are provided and, in some centres, low cost accommodation is available. Annual salary increases are given for satisfactory service. There are excellent opportunities for promotion to higher grades.

Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists

Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists are employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in its treatment hospitals which are located in major cities from coast to coast. Physiotherapists are required to be certified by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association or by an association in another country with which reciprocal standards are established e.g. United Kingdom, Australia, or New Zealand. There is excellent opportunity for promotion to higher grades for those who show an interest in, and aptitude for, the work and demonstrate that they have the ability to supervise junior staff.

Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists are also employed by the Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare in its hospitals at Edmonton, Sardis, Prince Rupert, Nanaimo, Inuvik, Whitehorse, and Moose Factory. Therapists are also required for the Ottawa Medical Centre of the Department of National Defence. This centre provides complete medical and surgical diagnostic services, and is a base for advanced training and research for Canadian Forces Medical Services and also with the Ottawa University School of Medicine.

Graduation from a university or school of recognized standing in Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy, including the recognized period of internship is a requirement for this work. Those with three years of experience as an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist, not including internship, will be appointed to a higher level.

Social Workers

Social Workers have made an important contribution to the amelioration of the social and psychological problems which stem from our growing population and industrial expansion. Work with the government offers challenges in both office and hospital settings.

In the Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Workers work with the Veterans Welfare Services Branch which operates in various cities. Their main task is to provide casework assistance for veterans but they also serve in an advisory capacity to other staff members in connection with allowances and related matters.

Those in the Department of National Health and Welfare advise provincial authorities and review the administration of Family Allowance and Old Age Security legislation in various Canadian centres.

In the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Social Workers work with Indians who need their assistance and guidance. Besides casework, they organize welfare and recreational programs and establish and maintain liaison with other community organizations, such as schools and private welfare agencies. They assist Indians in outside centres as well as those on reserves.

The Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources has Social Workers serving a number of areas in northern Canada such as the Mackenzie, eastern Arctic, the Keewatin and northern Quebec areas.

People with training and experience in social work are also employed as consultants in a number of welfare activities which are sponsored and administered by the federal government. For example, a Social Worker holds such a position in the Mental Health Division and another in the Medical Rehabilitation

and Disability Advisory Service of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Though located at Ottawa they are required to maintain liaison with related professional organizations throughout the country and to assist with the implementation of the department's programs.

Other positions in welfare fields in certain departments do not call for Social Workers as such but emphasize with noticeable frequency the need for people with good training and experience in social work.

Social Workers must have completed as least one year of professional training in a recognized school of social work but preference is given to those who have successfully completed two years of such training. Credits are given for experience in various fields of social work, particularly if such experience is related to the duties to be performed. For the entrance grade, experience is not essential.

Social Workers are also employed in most of the Veterans' Hospitals in Canada. These are located in such centres as Halifax, Saint John, Quebec, Montreal, St. Anne de Bellevue, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Victoria. In the field of medical social work they play an important role in multidiscipline teams in these veterans' hospitals which provide medical, surgical and psychiatric treatment to veterans and members of the armed forces. They are also employed in the Indian and Northern Health hospitals at Inuvik, Prince Rupert, Sarnia, Edmonton and Moose Factory.

For social work in the hospitals preference is given to candidates who have successfully completed two years of professional training in a recognized post-graduate school of social work and have some specialized training or post-graduate experience in medical or psychiatric social work.

Nutritionists, Dietitians, Home Economists

Nutritionists are employed in the Nutrition Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare to provide technical services to improve the health of Canadians. They participate in nutrition surveys and studies of food habits, provide a consultation service for non-profit institutions, develop recipes for foods with increased nutritional value, prepare educational material dealing with nutrition and pursue various research projects of national interest. Sometimes they work in cooperation with provincial departments of health and other agencies.

The Department of Veterans Affairs employs Dietitians in its numerous hospitals from coast to coast. In active treatment hospitals the junior Dietitian acts in an assistant capacity, particularly in the field of diet therapy and food science. In smaller veterans care homes she directs the dietary service and is responsible for the planning, ordering, preparation and service of food as well as diet therapy. Dietitians in the hospitals of the Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare have substantially the same duties.

Home Economists make good use of their talents in the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Consumer Section of the Department of Agriculture encourages through its experimental work, the use of Canadian food products such as meats, poultry, eggs, fruits, vegetables and cereals and acquaints the public with the best methods of processing and cooking. The Consumer Service in the Department of Fisheries does much the same thing but its emphasis naturally is on the use of fish and fish products.

Both departments publish the results of the experiments carried out by the Home Economists and issue pamphlets and booklets containing recipes which have been tried and tested in their modern, well-equipped kitchens in Ottawa. The Home Economists interpret market regulations for consumers, help to prepare food exhibits, and through different publicity channels, inform the public of the best methods of cooking and using fish and other food products.

Home Economists are employed mainly in Ottawa but they visit other cities, towns and rural communities to give lectures and demonstrations.

The basic qualifications for Home Economist, Nutritionist or Dietitian are graduation in Home Economics, Household Science or Household Economics with specialization in foods and nutrition plus one year of directed post-graduate training. Occasionally, appointments are made to higher levels but considerable work experience is required. In some cases, there is an allowance for uniforms. In other cases, a reasonable deduction may be made if living quarters are provided.

Promotion

All promotions are made on the basis of merit. Many are made upon recommendation of the supervisor, but you will also be eligible to apply in the competitions frequently held within the service. The policy is to promote from within the service wherever possible and reasonable.

Your career can develop either within your own department or in other government departments — as you wish. You may enter competitions for a wide variety of positions and you are not restricted to the field in which you were originally appointed.

Salaries

Salaries in the government service are usually increased annually and adjusted periodically on the basis of a regular review of national averages. Starting salaries depend on academic qualifications and work experience. Although no post-graduate training or previous work experience is necessary for positions described in this booklet, higher starting salaries are paid for such training or related experience, or both.

Benefits

The benefits are many and varied. Among these are 10 holidays a year plus three weeks' vacation with pay. You will earn 15 days of sick leave each year and if unused it will accumulate from year to year. There are also other types of leave including examination, maternity, military, travel and special leave. You will have low cost term insurance and will be enrolled in one of the most comprehensive superannuation plans in Canada. The pension under this plan can be as much as 70 per cent of your average salary over a six year period of highest earnings. If you wish, you may enrol in an excellent group surgical-medical plan. In some cities, including Ottawa, there are civil service credit unions which you may join.

Other Information

This booklet is one of a series prepared for university students. The attention of graduates in other disciplines is directed to booklets which describe the classes of work below:

- PHYSICAL SCIENCES
- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
- ENGINEERING
- JUNIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS
- LAW
- LIBRARY SCIENCE
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, COMMERCE, ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Copies may be obtained from your University Placement Office or from any office of the Civil Service Commission.

Scientific Research

Pamphlets describing current research activities in departments of the federal Government are also available in the following fields:

- Physical and Inorganic Chemistry Research
- Physics Research
- Chemistry Research in the Biological Sciences
- Entomological Research
- Bacteriology

Copies may be obtained from your University Placement Office or from any office of the Civil Service Commission.